

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENT
OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, LEO COOPER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to officially recognize the recent accomplishment of my constituent and friend, Knox County Commission Chairman, Leo Cooper. Commissioner Cooper was recently reappointed as chairman of the Knox County Commission by a unanimous vote and is beginning his third term in this important role. Mr. Cooper's leadership and genuine desire to serve the public are reflected in the fact that he is now the longest-serving Chairman in the history of the Knox County Commission.

In Washington, we often overlook the critical role local governments play in the lives of the American people. By focusing on broad legislative initiatives, we can easily lose sight of the tremendous work that must be done at the county and city levels.

Commissioner Cooper's reappointment as chairman will not be covered by national news, but I believe it serves as an opportunity to highlight, not only his efforts, but also the efforts of all Americans who have committed themselves to serving in local elected office.

Since 1986, Commissioner Leo Cooper has served the men, women and families of the Seventh District of Knox County as a tireless advocate and friend. Prior to being elected to local government, Chairman Cooper's career was dedicated to education and improving the lives of Knox County's young adults. Whether as an elected official or a schoolteacher and principle, Mr. Cooper has continually committed himself to public service. The people of the seventh district recognize this, and I am pleased that the other dedicated members of the Knox County Commission do as well.

I add these remarks to the RECORD today so that every member of the House of Representatives can join me in thanking Mr. Leo Cooper and every elected official in our respective districts who play such vital roles in the well-being of our communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN
MENCER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Susan Mencer on her new appointment as Director of the Office of Preparedness and Security for the State of Colorado. Susan will now play a key role in the defense of the State of Colorado and this nation from the threat of terrorism. This will be a challenging role for Susan, but I am confident she will prove herself most capable of leading Colorado in this time of national tragedy.

Protecting our country from terrorism is not a new role for Susan. She began her service in 1978 as an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Her initial duties at the agency led her to the Office of Counterintelligence in

New York. Serving as an agent, she was responsible for ensuring that foreign diplomats were not involved in spying or obtaining classified information concerning national security while posted in the United States. Susan's success propelled her to the FBI Headquarters in 1985, where she served in several high level roles as head of the budget unit for the Intelligence Division and Supervisor of Counterintelligence Operations.

In 1990, Susan came to the FBI Denver office and directed programs involving international and domestic terrorism, foreign counterintelligence. As a result of her dedication, Susan was named Director of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Denver created in response to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. Enjoying retirement since 1998, Susan was again called to duty following the Columbine shooting incident and served on the investigation panel. Her commitment to the safety for schools and our children led to an appointment from Governor Bill Owens to head the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Colorado is fortunate to have Susan Mercer lead our efforts to counter terrorism in the State of Colorado. Her impressive resume speaks volumes for Susan's dedication and commitment to keep this nation safe and free from terrorism. I am honored to have Susan in this position and extend my thanks for her service to Colorado and her commitment to this nation.

NEW YORK CITY CONGRESSIONAL
SESSION GAINS MOMENTUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you an article that appeared in the Hill newspaper on Wednesday, November 28, 2001. This news story is concerning H. Con. Res. 249, a resolution that I recently introduced, which provides for a joint session of Congress to be held in New York City early next year. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share this story with my colleagues.

[From the Hill, Nov. 28, 2001]

NYC CONGRESSIONAL SESSION GAINS
MOMENTUM

(By Kerry Kantin)

Despite the logistic hurdles that confront the notion of convening a session of Congress outside of Washington, D.C., momentum is building behind the movement to conduct a symbolic, one-day joint session in New York City.

A resolution introduced last month has already captured the bipartisan support of 165 House members. The House effort is spearheaded by New York State delegation Democratic chairman Rep. Charlie Rangel, who is from Manhattan.

Rangel, working with New York State GOP delegation dean Rep. Ben Gilman, has been actively corraling support from both his Democratic and Republican colleagues.

"It would be historic. It would be a way of symbolizing the strike we took for the nation and their appreciation for it," said the 15-term Rangel in a phone interview last week. "Any city or any town or village know the Congress is with them, like they're with New York City."

Rangel acknowledged that there are several logistical obstacles, including where the

session would be held and security issues, to iron out, but said that should not get in the way of members' support.

"No one's turning us down," Rangel added. "I know I can get my signatures next week."

Rangel and Gilman have written Dear Colleague letters, asking their support for the measure.

"We are equally impressed by our colleagues' support of a symbolic—but powerful—gesture to convene the Congress in New York for one day," write Rangel and Gilman in a Nov. 14 letter. "We believe that such a session in the city where Congress first convened would be a powerful and meaningful expression of support to New York."

The session would also provide an opportunity for all lawmakers to meet with New Yorkers, the letter adds.

The movement to bring Congress to the Big Apple was catalyzed on the editorial page of the Sept. 25 New York Daily News. The New York tabloid wrote an editorial urging a joint session of Congress in New York City, even if it is only for one day.

Rangel quickly picked up the cause and introduced a resolution on Oct. 12; New York Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) and Charles Schumer (D), followed suit, introducing a companion resolution Nov. 15.

"We're working actively to see that it happens," said Schumer, of his and Clinton's efforts. "It would be a shot in the arm for New York."

In the House, the resolution has captured the support of 53 Republicans and 112 Democrats, ranging from Empire State liberals like Rep. Jerrold Nadler to Midwestern conservatives like Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Don Manzullo (R-Ill.). The entire 31-member New York State delegation has signed on, as well as several other members from the Northeast.

With the exception of retiring House Minority Whip David Bonior (Mich), the entire Democratic leadership has pledged its support for the resolution, but no one from the House GOP leadership. It has, however, received the support of other influential Republicans, including Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (Fla.) and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin (La.).

"Everyone has been extremely receptive," Rangel said. "But when we get to the logistics, I hope they'll love me as much in the springtime as they do in the fall."

Other members are wary to sign on until finding out more details.

"I saw the note from Charlie [Rangel], but Gosh, it's an interesting concept, but I don't know if I'm for it or against it," said House Republican Conference Chairman Rep. J.C. Watts (R-Okla.).

"I do find it quite intriguing we would consider something like that," he added. "I'm sure we would look at the pros and cons and give it a fair hearing. It seems to be a massive undertaking to move the mechanics of Congress to another location."

While his primary focus is gaining as many signatures as he can, Rangel said he is looking into about six sites. He added that he is working with New York City Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg (R) and other city leaders, like Bill Ruden, the chairman of the Association for a Better New York.

Ed Skyler, a spokesman for the Bloomberg Transition Team, said the mayor-elect "strongly supports" the resolution. He added that Bloomberg discussed the issue during his trip to Washington earlier this month.

Those in support of the resolution say the logistics can be hammered out at a later time.

"A lot of those things would need to be worked out," acknowledged Schumer, adding that lawmakers could not work out many of

the fine details themselves and would need to leave issues, like security, up to other agencies, including the sergeants at arms.

"This is an act of showing congressional support for New York," said Kori Bernards, a spokeswoman for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), who supports the resolution.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3338, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. I wish to commend Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member MURTHA, and their staff for again crafting a bill that is appropriate for those who risk their lives to protect our country, our freedoms, and our way of life.

We have learned in recent months that we live in an uncertain time and an unstable world. We in Congress must always remember that the first priority of the Federal Government is to provide for the national defense.

This bill delivers on that priority and demonstrates our commitment to our Nation's defense by providing \$317.5 billion in discretionary spending, \$19 billion over last year's bill. The bill ensures that our military remains the strongest, most prepared force in the world, and strengthens our efforts to deal with the new threats that our Nation faces by providing \$11.7 billion under the Counter-Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Title. The bill also fulfills our obligation to house, clothe, feed, and provide for the health care of the members of our armed services and their families by providing a 4.6 percent pay raise and funding an increase in housing allowances.

Mr. Chairman, it is for these and many other reasons that I gladly support H.R. 3338 today and encourage my colleagues to do the same. At this very moment, men and women of our Armed Forces are overseas fighting a war on terrorism and evil. While we have all stood in this Chamber and commended them for their service, now is the time to support this vital legislation that will ensure our troops remain safe and successful, now and for years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Chairman, the tragic events of September 11th have left a profound impact on this country. As a representative from New York, I have witnessed firsthand the destruction and grief endured by the survivors. I've watched our brave rescue personnel work tirelessly to recover lost loved ones. Cleanup crews continue to work around the clock in hope of rebuilding what was destroyed. There is no question that New Yorkers are united in their effort to overcome the challenges ahead of them.

As we know, in the aftermath of September 11th, Congress quickly passed the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (P.L. 107-38). This supplemental appropriates \$40 billion and allows the Bush Administration to spend the first \$20 billion with minimal reporting requirements. The remaining \$20 billion can be spent only after the Administration has specifically requested it and Congress has passed a bill reported by the Appropriations Committee. New Yorkers were promised \$20 billion of these funds to help with relief efforts.

I supported this legislation because it stipulates that "not less than one-half of the \$40,000,000,000 shall be for disaster recovery activities and assistance related to the terrorist attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania . . ." However, only \$3.2 billion has been released and the Administration has only requested an additional \$6.3 billion for a total of \$9.5 billion. That's less than half of what was promised.

I am extremely concerned that New York is not receiving the full \$20 billion in emergency funds promised by the President in this bill. New York can not afford to wait for future legislation allocating the remainder of the \$20 billion in emergency funds it was promised. Overtime pay for cleanup workers must be paid. Unemployment Insurance funds are rapidly depleting. Continuation of COBRA must continue. These are real concerns that will require, at a minimum, the immediate allocation of the \$20 billion in emergency funds.

Equally important, however, is the urgent need to equip our military personnel with the resources and tools they need to prevent future acts of terrorism. We are at war with an enemy that is not restricted to country borders or even continents. The 7-percent increase in funding addresses many of our military's needs and prepares this country for the long road of eradicating all terrorists.

I have little doubt that New York will eventually receive the full \$20 billion promised by the President, but I would have preferred to receive these funds today. The President must not forget about New York, just as we have not forgotten about our brave men and women fighting overseas to prevent another attack similar to September 11th.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID KLAGER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of David Denison Klager who recently passed away in Creede, Colorado on November 1, 2001. David, known to others as Dave, will always be remembered as a dedicated contributor to the community. His passing is a great loss for a town that relied on Dave for his kind heart, knowledge, and friendship.

As a member of the Creede community, Dave was constantly volunteering his time and energy for beneficial projects in the area. He served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer for the Homeowner's Association, President and Board of Directors for the Creede Repertory Theater, President of the Creede Historical Society, volunteer for the Creede Historical Museum, and member of the Arts Council. He also served as Senior Warden to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.

Dave was a lover of the outdoors and enjoyed the many activities that Colorado can offer. He was an avid hiker, snowmobiler, cross-country skier and canoeer. His hobby was woodworking and his work can be seen throughout the City of Creede in places such as St. Augustine's Church, the "Art Park", and Creede Repertory Theater.

Mr. Speaker, Dave will be missed by the many whose lives he has touched in the community. It has always been known that his greatest passion was his love and dedication to his family. His wife Courtney, daughters Kim, Karol, and Karen, as well as several grandchildren survive Dave. It is with a solemn heart that we say goodbye and pay our respects to a patriarch of the Creede community. David Denison Klager dedicated his final years to his neighbors in the City of Creede, Colorado, and he will be greatly missed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3338, the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002.

In this time of national awareness of the very real threat of terrorism, I believe it is our responsibility as lawmakers to ensure the readiness and quality of life of our military by providing these forces with the necessary resources, equipment and training to defend our nation's interests and to keep the American people secure. With our country at war, it is more important than ever to continue to support our armed forces and provide them with